



Eulogy of Sister Jeanne Granville, BVM (Suzette)

Marian Hall Chapel, June 18, 2018

Good morning and welcome to the celebration of life of our Sister Jeanne Granville.

Jeanne Marie Granville was born on May 6, 1928, in St. Louis, Mo., the youngest child of William and Mary Helen McKean Granville. She joined siblings Mary Helen, William, John and Mary Elizabeth (Bette), all of whom preceded her in death.

After graduating from Xavier High School in St. Louis, Jeanne attended Webster College in St. Louis for one year before entering the congregation on Sept. 8, 1947. She received the name Suzette upon her reception on March 19, 1948, professed first vows on March 19, 1950 and lived 70 years as a BVM.

Jeanne was a creative teacher and gifted administrator who was able to bring out the best in others. She was missioned as an elementary teacher at St. Callistus, St. Ferdinand, and St. Dorothy in Chicago; St. Eulalia in Maywood, Ill.; St. Joseph in Round Lake, Ill.; and Our Lady of Loretto in Hempstead, N.Y. She also served as elementary principal at St. Dorothy and at Seven Holy Founders in Calumet, Ill.; and Holy Ghost School in Jackson, Miss.

In a 2015 Thank a Nun message, a former student, wrote, "She was one of the coolest nuns I had at Our Lady of Loretto; there was something in her posture and grace. . . Sister had such a low-key way of sharing stories and history. She was also an excellent English teacher. I was fortunate to have her as a junior high teacher."

Jeanne was Director of the North City Deanery Elementary Schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis for five years and then became the coordinator of the EDUC Program at the Talton Outreach Center. After leaving this position, she intended to enter parish ministry, but she found herself serving as substitute principal in three different schools when their principals quit early in the school year. She served at St. Elizabeth in Crestwood, Mo.; and Our Lady of Good Counsel and St James the Greater in St. Louis for the next six years. She was briefly able to serve as the director of Outreach & Social Concerns at Immaculate Conception Parish in Maplewood, Mo. in between substitute jobs.

In 1997, Jeanne became the first volunteer for the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program. By teaching English to Bosnian and Vietnamese women, she provided them with opportunities to build self-confidence, strengthen communication skills, prevent financial exploitation and prepare them for citizenship.

Sharing a story from her time with the program, Jeanne recalled, "[While] speaking with a [woman] on the phone, she repeatedly told me 'baby smells.' I offered what seemed to me to be logical solutions when 'baby smells.' The more I offered, the more insistent she was. The correct translation finally dawned when she added, 'Baby happy; baby smells a lot.' Aha! Baby SMILES! We both laughed."

Jeanne's last formal ministry was as a member of the board for Micro-financing Partners in Africa. She participated wholeheartedly in their two fundraising activities – Fasting and Feasting. During the annual 24-hour Fasting, members sought donors for hourly pledges. During Feasting, Jeanne, along with BVMs Karen Pollard and

Margaret McCulloch and a dear friend Catherine, would patron St. Louis Restaurants that would donate a portion of the bill to MPA.

Jeanne was loyal to her friends and devoted to her family. She was gracious, thoughtful, kind, witty, and a perfectionist in work ethic and appearance. She found great enjoyment spending time with those dear to her, as well as traveling, chocolate, and shopping, but only if it was a bargain. She loved dogs and was committed to all things St. Louis, especially the St. Louis Cardinals, even when she knew she was in Cubs country.

Jeanne had a strong faith and a deep love of the Eucharist. She truly loved the Lord her God with all her heart, soul, mind and strength. In her commitment to the disenfranchised and her work for justice, she loved her neighbor as herself. To paraphrase St. Paul, Jeanne, we give thanks to our God at every remembrance of you. We rejoice that you now rest in the presence of pure Love.